

DEAR FRIENDS OF THE BEAUTIFUL BULGARIAN NATURE,

Welcome to Lomovete - a real mountain below the plain! Welcome to "Rusenski Lom" Nature Park - a favorite place for tourists, an oasis of plant and animal diversity among rocks and valleys! Live out your adventure, enjoy it showing respect towards nature and having in mind that this priceless living heritage is fragile and vulnerable. We can save it together!

Therefore, we remind you that the following are PROHIBITED on the territory of the park:

- collecting fossils and minerals, damaging rock formations;
- plucking flowers, gathering herbs and berries for commercial and industrial purposes;
- bivouacking and lighting fires outside designated areas;
- disturbing wild animals, collecting and destroying birds' eggs and nests;
- polluting water and land with domestic, industrial and other waste;
- damaging rock churches and other historical sites;
- disposing of plant waste outside the places specified by the development project.

Park visits must be done only using the marked routes, with a guide and in smaller groups.

"RUSENSKI LOM" NATURE PARK is named after the Rusenski Lom River - the last right tributary of the Danube River. It was declared a natural park in 1970 with an area of 22,267 decares, located along the Mali, Cherni and Beli Lom rivers, with a total length of 42 km. Limestone predominates here. The biological diversity of karst terrains is known to be two to three times greater than that of other landscapes. In the valley, there are hundreds of smaller caves without any branches.

On the steep slopes above the river, there is a forest-shrub and grass formation called "dark forest" consisting of oak, elm, maple, ash, softwood and linden trees, as well as a rich undergrowth of bushes - hawthorn, rosehip, privet, lilac - and plenty of herbaceous vegetation. The park boasts rare and protected plant species, of which one Bulgarian and five Balkan endemics, among which are Kovachev zanovets (*Chamaecytisus kovacevii*) and Diekian mullein (*Verbascum dieckianum*), whose only habitat is Polomieto. An interesting representative of the steppe vegetation is the John's wort.

The fauna is even more diverse. Invertebrates include the scolopendra and the Carpathian scorpion. A total of 10 species of amphibians (of which 5 are protected) and 19 species of reptiles inhabit the Valley. The night lizard has a special zoogeographic value. Here we can see two types of land turtles, the spotted turtle and the mouse turtle, the honey turtle, the viper. 22 species of fish, crabs, snails and clams can be found in the river. The park is a true bird paradise. Many birds, which are

endangered throughout Europe, are found here. Therefore, Lomovete has been declared a place of ornithological importance.